

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-6 (Canceled).

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A pharmaceutical composition containing the imidazole compound of claim [[1]] 16, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable organic or inorganic excipient.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A pharmaceutical preparation containing the imidazole compound of claim [[1]] 16, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in admixture with a pharmaceutically acceptable organic or inorganic excipient, which is used as an agent for the prophylaxis or treatment of impaired glucose tolerance disorder, diabetes, gestational diabetes, diabetic complications, insulin resistance syndrome, polycystic ovary syndrome, hyperlipidemia, ~~atherosclerosis, cardiovascular diseases~~, hyperglycemia, ~~pancreatitis~~, osteoporosis, hyperuricemia, hypertension, ~~inflammatory bowel diseases~~ or skin disorders related to an anomaly of differentiation of epidermic cells.

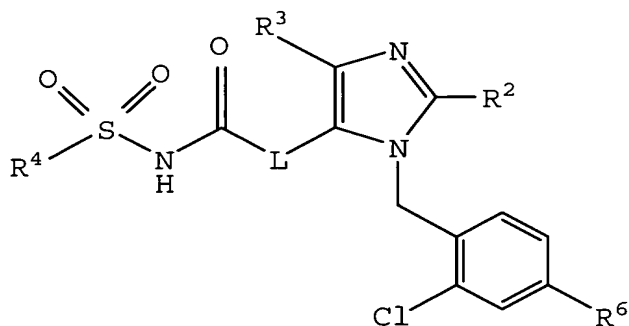
Claim 9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A method of preventing or treating a disease in a patient treatable with a pharmaceutical compound having hypoglycemic activity selected from the group consisting of impaired glucose tolerance disorder, diabetes, gestational diabetes, diabetic complications, insulin resistance syndrome, polycystic ovary syndrome, hyperlipidemia, ~~atherosclerosis, cardiovascular diseases~~, hyperglycemia, ~~pancreatitis~~, osteoporosis, hyperuricemia, hypertension, ~~inflammatory bowel diseases~~, and skin disorders

related to an anomaly of differentiation of epidermic cells, which comprises administering to the patient the hypoglycemically active imidazole compound of claim 16 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Claims 11-15 (Canceled).

Claim 16 (New): An imidazole compound of the formula:



wherein

R² is a lower alkyl;

R³ is chlorine;

R⁴ is (1) a lower alkenyl optionally substituted by aryl or heterocyclic group, (2) aryl optionally substituted by lower alkenyl, (3) lower alkyl, or (4) heterocyclic group optionally substituted by halogen;

R⁶ is lower alkenyl optionally substituted by phenyl, or lower alkynyl optionally substituted by phenyl; and

L is ethylene,

where aryl is defined as unsubstituted aryl or alkyl-substituted aryl, or a salt thereof.

Claim 17 (New): The imidazole compound of claim 16 which is:

(5) (E)-3-(4-chloro-1-(2-chloro-4-(phenylethynyl)benzyl)-2-methylimidazol-5-yl)-N-((4-methylbenzene)sulfonyl)-2-propenamide,

(6) (2E)-3-(4-chloro-1-(2-chloro-4-(phenylethynyl)benzyl)-2-methylimidazol-5-yl)-N-(((E)-2-phenylethenyl)sulfonyl)-2-propenamide,

(34) (E)-3-(4-chloro-1-(2-chloro-4-((E)-2-phenylethenyl)benzyl)-2-methylimidazol-5-yl)-N-((4-methylbenzene)sulfonyl)-2-propenamide,

(35) (E)-3-(4-chloro-1-(2-chloro-4-((E)-2-phenylethenyl)benzyl)-2-methylimidazol-5-yl)-N-(((E)-2-phenylethenyl)sulfonyl)-2-propenamide,

(41) (E)-3-(4-chloro-1-(2-chloro-4-((E)-2-phenylethenyl)benzyl)-2-methylimidazol-5-yl)-N-(1-pentanesulfonyl)-2-propenamide,

(42) (E)-3-(4-chloro-1-(2-chloro-4-((E)-2-phenylethenyl)benzyl)-2-methylimidazol-5-yl)-N-((E)-1-penten-1-ylsulfonyl)-2-propenamide,

(43) (E)-N-(1-butanesulfonyl)-3-(4-chloro-1-(2-chloro-4-((E)-2-phenylethenyl)benzyl)-2-methylimidazol-5-yl)-2-propenamide,

(44) (E)-3-(4-chloro-1-(2-chloro-4-(phenylethynyl)benzyl)-2-methylimidazol-5-yl)-N-(1-pentanesulfonyl)-2-propenamide,

(45) (E)-3-(4-chloro-1-(2-chloro-4-(phenylethynyl)benzyl)-2-methylimidazol-5-yl)-N-((E)-1-penten-1-ylsulfonyl)-2-propenamide,

(46) (E)-N-(1-butanesulfonyl)-3-(4-chloro-1-(2-chloro-4-(2-phenylethynyl)benzyl)-2-methylimidazol-5-yl)-2-propenamide,

(54) (E)-3-(4-chloro-1-(2-chloro-4-(phenylethynyl)benzyl)-2-ethylimidazol-5-yl)-N-((E)-2-phenylethenesulfonyl)-2-propenamide,

(55) (E)-3-(4-chloro-1-(2-chloro-4-(phenylethynyl)benzyl)-2-ethylimidazol-5-yl)-N-((4-methylbenzene)sulfonyl)-2-propenamide,

(56) (E)-N-(1-butanesulfonyl)-3-(4-chloro-1-(2-chloro-4-(phenylethynyl)benzyl)-2-ethylimidazol-5-yl)-2-propenamide,

(57) (E)-3-(4-chloro-1-(2-chloro-4-(phenylethynyl)benzyl)-2-ethylimidazol-5-yl)-N-(1-pentanesulfonyl)-2-propenamide,

(58) (E)-3-(4-chloro-1-(2-chloro-4-(phenylethynyl)benzyl)-2-ethylimidazol-5-yl)-N-((E)-1-penten-1-ylsulfonyl)-2-propenamide,

(59) (E)-3-(4-chloro-1-(2-chloro-4-((E)-2-phenylethenyl)benzyl)-2-ethylimidazol-5-yl)-N-((E)-2-phenylethenesulfonyl)-2-propenamide,

(60) (E)-3-(4-chloro-1-(2-chloro-4-((E)-2-phenylethenyl)benzyl)-2-ethylimidazol-5-yl)-N-(4-methylbenzenesulfonyl)-2-propenamide,

(61) (E)-N-(1-butanesulfonyl)-3-(4-chloro-1-(2-chloro-4-((E)-2-phenylethenyl)benzyl)-2-ethylimidazol-5-yl)-2-propenamide,

(62) (E)-3-(4-chloro-1-(2-chloro-4-((E)-2-phenylethenyl)benzyl)-2-ethylimidazol-5-yl)-N-(1-pentanesulfonyl)-2-propenamide,

(63) (E)-3-(4-chloro-1-(2-chloro-4-((E)-2-phenylethenyl)benzyl)-2-ethylimidazol-5-yl)-N-((E)-1-penten-1-ylsulfonyl)-2-propenamide,

or a salt thereof.

Claim 18 (New): The imidazole compound of claim 16, which is:

(E)-3-(4-chloro-1-(2-chloro-4-(phenylethynyl)benzyl)-2-methylimidazol-5-yl)-N-((4-methylbenzene)sulfonyl)-2-propanamide,

(E)-3-(4-chloro-1-(2-chloro-4-(phenylethynyl)benzyl)-2-ethylimidazol-5-yl)-N-((4-methylbenzene)sulfonyl)-2-propenamide,

(E)-3-(4-chloro-1-(2-chloro-4-(phenylethynyl)benzyl)-2-ethylimidazol-5-yl)-N-(1-pentanesulfonyl)-2-propenamide or

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(E)-3-(4-chloro-1-(2-chloro-4-(phenylethynyl)benzyl)-2-ethylimidazol-5-yl)-N-((E)-1-penten-1-ylsulfonyl)-2-propenamide,
or a salt thereof.